

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SCCT-01 SNM-02 DEAE-00 SAM-01 OMB-01 /064 W

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R 061628Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WSASHDC 2193

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USNATO 1742

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL SOCI DA

SUBJ: CHRISTIANIA: DEFENSE MINISTER THREATENED BY A

"SOCIAL EXPERIMENT"

REF: 1975 COPENHAGEN 3661

BEGIN SUMMARY: A QUESTION OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TODAY FOR

THE DANES DOES NOT INVOLVE WAR AND PEACE OR EVEN VERY

DIRECTLY THEIR OWN POCKETBOOKS. IT IS WHETHER A GROUP

OF ABOUT 700 SQUATTERS SHOULD BE TOSSED OUT OF SOME

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ABANDONED ARMY BARRACKS IN COPENHAGEN BY APRIL 1. THE

POLITICAL FUTURE OF DEFENSE MINISTER ORLA MOLLER MAY BE TIED TO THE RESOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM OF THE "FREE STATE OF CHRISTIANIA". THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE MAY BE FORCED TO RESIGN HAS LED ADVOCATES OF A NEW DANISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT TO ACCELERATE THEIR ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN IT BEFORE APRIL 1, FOR THEY FEAR THAT MOLLER MAY BE REPLACED BY SOMEONE LESS SYMPATHETIC TO DEFENSE NEEDS.

END SUMMARY.

1) THE SQUATTERS ARE A MOTLEY GROUP OF FREELOADERS, INTELLECTUALS, SOCIAL MISFITS, HIPPIES, POLITICAL RADICALS, DRUG USERS AND WORKING STRAIGHTS WHO HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE FREE SHELTER, WATER AND LIGHT THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT RELUCTANTLY CONTINUES TO PROVIDE. THEY HAVE STONEWALLED GOVERNMENT REQUESTS TO VACATE CHRISTIANIA, IN THE SPRING OF 1972 TO AVOID A DIRECT CONFRONTATION, THE GOVERNMENT "RECOGNIZED" THE "FREE STATE" AS A "SOCIAL EXPERIMENT" FOR THREE YEARS. IN THIS INTERNAL, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CITY OF COPENHAGEN WERE SUPPOSED TO DECIDE WHAT USE COULD BE MADE OF THE OLD ARMY AREA.

2) UNTIL VERY RECENTLY, DANISH PUBLIC OPINION HAD SEEMED TO CONGEAL AGAINST CHRISTIANIA. THE POLICE HAVE ALLEGED THAT CRIME IN GENERAL AND DRUG USE IN PARTICULAR ARE HIGHER, IN CHRISTIANIA THAN ELSEWHERE IN COPENHAGEN. THE "CHRISTIANITTER", AS THEY ARE KNOWN, HAVE FAILED TO FULFILL AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO PAY FOR THE WATER AND ELECTRICITY THEY USED. ALSO, AS NOTED IN REFTEL, THE DANES APPEAR TO BE STEPPING BACK SOMEWHAT FROM THE OUTER LIMITS OF PERMISSIVENESS THIS SOCIETY EXPLORED IN THE LATE 60'S AND EARLY 70'S.

3) ACCORDINGLY, IT WAS NOT SURPRISING THAT LAST SPRING THE PARLIAMENT PASSED RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE EVACUATION OF THE SQUATTERS BY APRIL 1. DEFENSE MINISTER ORLA MOLLER WAS, AND REMAINS, ONE OF THE TOUGHEST SUPPORTERS OF THE RESOLUTION. AS APRIL 1 APPROACHES, HOWEVER, THE TIDE OF PUBLIC AND PARLIAMENTARY OPINION IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TURNING BACK IN CHRISTIANIA'S FAVOR, AND THERE APPEARS TO BE SERIOUS DOUBT WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WILL IN FACT IMPLEMENT LAST YEAR'S RESOLUTION.

4) ONE OF THE MAIN FACTORS INFLUENCING THIS TURNAROUND IS THAT NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN ABOUT WHAT TO DO WITH THE AREA IF THE CHRISTIANITTER DEPART. FURTHERMORE, THE TANGIBLE REALITY OF A CHRISTIANIA ACTS AS A LIGHT-

NING ROD FOR THE EXPRESSION OF DISCONTENT BY BOTH THE RIGHT AND LEFT SIDES OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM. THE DANES HAVE, CONSEQUENTLY, TAKEN STRONG AND POLARIZED POSITIONS ON THE SUBJECT WITH LITTLE REGARD FOR THE SUBTLE AND COMPLICATED ISSUES INVOLVED.

5) IF THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT MOVE, MOLLER MAY FEEL COMPELLED TO RESIGN. IF THE GOVERNMENT CLOSES CHRISTIANIA ON APRIL 1, HE WILL BE SEVERELY CRITICIZED BY ITS VOCAL AND NOW NUMEROUS DEFENDERS. IN ADDITION, MOLLER'S VULNERABILITY HAS BEEN HEIGHTENED BECAUSE OF HIS PERSONAL LIFE. EVEN IN DENMARK, PUBLIC OPINION DOES NOT REMAIN UNAFFECTED BY THE SPECTACLE OF A STILL-MARRIED, 59-YEAR OLD, ORDAINED LUTHERAN MINISTER PUBLICLY LIVING WITH A DIVORCED WOMAN (WHO IS ALSO A SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT).

6) MOLLER HAS BEEN AN EFFECTIVE DEFENSE MINISTER AND IS COMMITTED TO A "STRONG" (BY DANISH STANDARDS) SECURITY POSTURE. A SUCCESSOR MAY BE LESS COMMITTED. CONSEQUENTLY, PROPONENTS OF A NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT ARE ANXIOUS TO CONCLUDE ONE BEFORE APRIL 1. TO THAT EFFECT, PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE NEGOTIATIONS ON A NEW AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN ACCELERATED. ALMOST CERTAINLY, A NEW AGREEMENT WILL BE CONCLUDED BEFORE THE END OF THE PRESENT PARLIAMENTARY SESSION IN JUNE, WITH OR WITHOUT MOLLER. IT WILL ALSO PROBABLY REFLECT FUNDING MORE OR LESS AT PRESENT LEVELS. MOLLER'S PRESENCE, HOWEVER, MIGHT WELL DECIDE WHETHER THESE ARE "MORE" OR "LESS".  
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